

## A VERY LARGE RING

of **A VERY LARGE RING**

**OF CUSTOM HOUSE OFFICIALS**  
**And Wool Importers Undervaluing Australian Wool, In Order that the American Product May be Undersold.**

St. Louis, Oct. 9.—The *Globe-Democrat* publishes this morning an article on wool in which it says: "The depressed con-

dition of the wool market, which was first noticed in the beginning of June, and which has been getting worse as the season advances instead of better, has so mystified the local factors that a secret investigation has recently been on foot which promises to expose a gigantic ring, supported by the Government.

Eastern manufacturers and New York and Boston custom house officials. The secret investigators have discovered that choice unwashed Australian wools, which cost 21 cents in the European market, are taking the place of American wools of the

same grade, which are sold in the home market for 27 cents. But the tariff on the foreign article is 10 cents per pound, which ought to make it cost the American buyer 31 cents, not counting expenses of

**STARTLING DISCOVERY.**  
One of the discoveries made was that the Custom House officials in New York had been undervaluing wool entered at that port, thus reducing the tariff to such an extent as to enable the higher grades to sell lower than the medium and lower grades of the American article. One instance in particular showed a saving of twenty cents on each pound. Scoured wool, on which the tariff is thirty cents.

was entered as washed wool, at ten cents per pound, and it came in by the ship load, the Custom House officers paeeling it in this manner with a readiness that gave rise to very loud suspicions of crookedness. In this particular case, however, Secretary Fairchild interposed his authority and secured wool is now paying its full duty of thirty cents.

Other similar transactions of even greater magnitude are alleged by the wool men, who declare that a ring exists among certain manufacturers and importers in the east and the exporters beyond the Atlantic. This ring, it is charged, includes Custom House employes, and perhaps offi-

**A GIGANTIC RING.**  
Said a leading Commissioner: "I believe one of the biggest rings ever organized in this country has been manipulating the wool market, through connivance with custom-house authorities at New

York and Boston. They have by undervaluation passed millions of pounds of wool through the ports and have loaded the market with it. They have been able to supply the demand with foreign wools at prices that defied American competition, and while we have been at their mercy, we knew nothing of their existence. There is no doubt that an amazing

amount of crookedness has been in progress, and that somebody has been benefitted immensely by it. Our organization is bound to stop it, and when that is done I think the condition of affairs will suddenly change."

**Crop Summary.**—The Farmers' Review crop summary this week is as follows: The scarcity of pasture and the shortage of the hay crop owing to continued drouth during the summer months, have led this year to the cutting of a larger amount of corn fodder throughout the West than ever before by farmers who have stock to winter. The reports of our correspondents this week give some interesting data relative to the amount cut in the different

States. The reports which have reached us regarding the acreage of lands now being seeded to winter wheat indicate a slight falling off as compared with the acreage seeded last year. The reports of our crop correspondent summarized give the following average this week: Illinois, twenty counties report an estimated yield of corn of 18.45

bushels per acre; acreage being seeded to winter wheat as compared with last year 105 per cent; percentage of corn fodder cut this year 38 percent; in twelve counties the average yield of potatoes is 30 bushels. Indiana, seven counties estimate the yield of corn at 19.45; winter wheat

acreage, 100 per cent; corn fodder cut, 54 per cent; yield of potatoes 23½ bushels. Michigan, twelve counties estimate the yield of corn at 34 bushels; winter wheat acreage 97½ per cent; corn fodder cut, 88 per cent; yield of potatoes 41 2-3 bushels.

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**A "MOONLIGHTER" FOR REVENUE.**  
He Divulges a Police Plot to an Irish Men.

LONDON, Oct. 8.—The popular disgust with coercion is intensified by the revelation of the Ennis inquest laying bare the infamous police system of cultivating criminal outrages. A notable case of this kind is that of a County Clare lecher named Longham, who attacked

regard named Loughrey, who, it is shown, was paid by the police to arrange moonlight raids in order that the raiders might be arrested and the police consequently credited with great efficiency. Loughrey finally divulged the police plot to Mr. Cox, M. P. for East Clare, to whom he handed proof of his statements in the

shape of a letter from the head constable of the district enclosing a £10 note as the first installment of the blood money he was to receive for delivering his companions into the hands of the police.

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**Not a Wheeling Woman,**  
*Pittsburgh Dispatch.*

Annie Arnold, a woman about 30 years of age, was sent to Wheeling by the Poor Board yesterday. According to her story she has been sent to all the small towns in Ohio but the jail

The woman arrived in the city late at night and slept in the lockup. She is known to the police as a depraved and idle tramp, and is considered weak-minded and poses as a fortune teller.

The Whirling Scheutensverein members shot several matches Saturday afternoon on the Island range, the scores of which will be found below. Next Saturday a team of six members will shoot a match with the same name number 100 from the Washington Island and the home grounds, and they expect to visit.

First Match—William Oos 79, Otto Jaeger 70, J. Cox 64, total 219. W. Jackson 69, E. Schenuder 60, H. Williams 56, total 185. Second Match—Otto Jaeger 84, total 192. Third Match—Otto Jaeger 84, William Cox 73, total 157. W. Jackson 75, H. Williams 74, total 149. Third Match—Otto Jaeger 75, E. Schenuder 62, total 137. W. Jackson 68, H. Williams 60, total 128.

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